

Skipwith Parish Council Meeting Minutes on Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Jonathon Morgan (JM) (Chairman), Mike Ward (MW) Vice-Chairman, Claire Colthirst (CC), Kate Baxter (KB), Sharon Worrall (SW), Trevor Britain (TB)

Parish Clerk: Isobel Greatrex (IG)

Guest: District Councillor, Neil Reader (NR)

742. Apologies: None

743. Declarations of interest not already declared under the council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None

Item No.	Discussion	Action by	Due Date
744	<p>Public session</p> <p>Members of the public were present requesting to hear of any progress regarding highway safety about the Skipwith/North Duffield road, hoping to have the issue resolved before traffic increases, once the pandemic lockdown lifts. It was noted that they believed that the chicane installation had made traffic speeding worse at that junction.</p> <p>A member of the public also felt that the chicanes were encouraging drivers to use them as a sport to see how quickly they can get around them and that the chicanes were causing vehicles to go over the grass verges and causing difficulty when exiting driveways near them.</p> <p>JM explained that the speed data obtained was much reduced around the chicanes compared to that on the Skipwith/North Duffield junction and he had observed that generally people were slowing down, which the data reflects. Large vehicles driving over grass verges had been an ongoing problem for many years throughout the village due to large farming machinery, which was not possible to resolve as Skipwith is part of a farming community.</p> <p>Following an onsite meeting with Highways, MW and SW, SW provided an update about Highways response.</p> <p>Highways explained it has limited funds and would be unable to take on any major engineering /reconfiguring of the existing junction. However, it has agreed to do the following work at no cost to the Parish Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move the 30mph signposts further out of the village to give drivers more warning. This is subject to Highways legislation/consultations, which could potentially take up to 6 months. It may be possible to combine any notice periods with North Duffield as they are having their 30mph signposts repositioned and are slightly ahead of Skipwith, so this could improve the timeline.• The rumble strips will be re-done at the gateway to the village as you enter from North Duffield direction as well as a painted 30 on the road surface to reinforce the speed limit.• At the junction (where cars turn left coming from the north side of the village to go south east to North Duffield), there will be a painted "hatch," which means drivers are not allowed to drive in this area. This should make the corner tighter as the lane will be narrower without impacting on road safety. The "hatch" has been suggested by Highways as the PC's initial thought of a bollard for the corner is not feasible due to regulations, logistical and technical reasons.• The dropped kerbs where the "hatch" is located will be replaced in due course when road works are being carried out in Skipwith or the local vicinity.		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will also be a painted 30 on the road surface driving away from the "hatched" area to reinforce the speed limit. • The rumble strips at the north side of the village entrance/exit will be re-done. <p>All the above works will be done when the weather is warmer as paint and rumble strips need a higher temperature and to make it cost effective for Highways some work will be combined with other work in nearby villages.</p> <p>SW noted that the Give Way sign at the junction cannot be changed to a Stop sign due to Highway legalities and police enforcement reasons. A footpath cannot be installed either and neither can other forms of calming measures like "sleeping policemen" as they are too close to the houses.</p>		
745	<p>Minutes of 4th January 2021 meeting were approved by all members of the PC as a true and accurate record. CC proposed and KB seconded.</p> <p>Minutes of 26th January 2021 extraordinary meeting were approved by all members of the PC as a true and accurate record. CC proposed and KB seconded.</p>		
746 746.1	<p>Information on the following ongoing issues and to decide further action where necessary:</p> <p>Highway Safety <u>Skipwith/North Duffield Junction</u> – please refer to item 744. <u>Chicane Repair</u> Highways has confirmed that all repairs should be completed in March. <u>Police Speed Enforcement</u> IG updated the PC regarding police speed enforcement. She had contacted Catherine Jones, from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners Office who had sent an acknowledgement, stating she would refer it the appropriate department. IG had also contacted Richard Fletcher from North Yorkshire Police who had replied stating <i>"Our aim is to improve road safety across the county and a key part of this is showing a visibility in the local communities. We have a vast amount of communities that we wish to provide the same level of support and reassurance to but as I'm sure you will appreciate, this is dependent on the resources we have available. That being said, I am aware that one of our safety camera vehicles was in Skipwith yesterday afternoon for a period of time. I have taken your concerns forward to my colleagues to ensure that Skipwith can be considered for presence and enforcement when possible."</i></p>		
746.2	<p>Pond Management KB informed the PC the work on the pond had not been able to go ahead at the end of February as the land had been too wet. As the ecological report had recommended work should not be done between March and August, the work will be postponed until either 5th or 12th September, although this will mean the pond will probably look choked throughout the Summer. She will contact the contractors in August to confirm final arrangements.</p>	KB	August
746.3	<p>Water Sewage Pumping Station IG had contacted Dr Howard Ferguson, Senior Parliamentary Assistant to Nigel Adams, MP regarding the poor state of the water sewage pumping station but unfortunately had not received any further update at this time.</p>	IG	Ongoing

746.4	<p>Asset Register IG updated the PC regarding the PC's land ownership. She had now located documents which confirm that the PC own the land on the village green and Scarrow Green, including two adjacent pieces of land. One of Skipwith's residents had also recently informed her that apparently many years ago a Lord bequeathed the allotment land to the PC, although an additional piece of the land within /next to the allotment area is owned separately by the PC. She volunteered to look further to see if she could locate the appropriate documentation. IG to follow up. MW explained that Parish Councils were only established in 1974 and at that time they inherited land across the UK and therefore, there was probably no documentation or land registered. TB stated that when the land was previously sold by the PC to build houses on Common Road proof of ownership must have been established at that time. IG had also contacted, once again, a previous Parish Clerk on a further three occasions to see if they still had some PC documents but to no avail. The PC is obviously very keen to ascertain the details of this ownership so it can be added to the Asset Register to fulfil its audit requirement.</p>	IG	Asap
746.5	<p>Street Cleaning IG informed the PC that Daniel Gath and Yorvik Homes had, together, committed to arrange for street cleaning to be carried out once per week on Friday afternoons or Saturdays in Main Street, when the road is muddy due to the impact from the housing developments.</p>		
746.6	<p>Village Green Lights It was agreed to switch off the lights on the village green with immediate effect. CC proposed and TB seconded.</p>	CC	Asap
746.7	<p>Allotments MW recently attended an allotments webinar to further enhance understanding of the regulations. MW informed the PC that fees collected from the allotment holders were not required to be ring fenced for specific allotment use. KB reminded the PC that it had agreed to consider any suggested improvements. JM reminded the PC that there were only limited funds and that finances should be spread across the community. It was agreed that MW would issue a draft tenancy agreement prior to the next PC meeting in order for a final copy to be agreed and to be issued to the current tenants. IG to send MW some older templates recently provided by a previous clerk.</p>	MW IG	Before 4 th May Asap
747	<p>Planning</p>		
747.1	<p><u>Planning Non Compliance</u> IG had received no further updates from Selby Planning department, despite contacting it on two occasions, about the potential land ownership breaches of the paddock behind the Orchard Home development (Mulberry Grove) and Prospect House. IG will continue to follow up. IG had contacted Highways for an update regarding North House Farm fencing. It had explained that, due to confidentiality, it was unable to advise further.</p>	IG	Asap
747.2	<p><u>Fieldhouse Farm Planning Application</u></p>		

	IG had received correspondence from the owners, who had recently been refused their planning application for the installation of 3 static caravans and who had asked the PC to support their appeal. Whilst the PC did not raise any objections to the application it did not feel that it could support the appeal as it had not supported independent applications in the past. IG to respond.	IG	Asap
748 748.1	<p>Matters Requested by Councillors: <u>Selby Development Plan (JM)</u> JM and KB had recently attended a meeting to find out further information about long term plans for housing, business growth and local services up to 2040 to aid the planning process and to consult on a preferred plan. The driving force behind this is due to the number of houses required in the future. The consultation period ends on 12th March, after which there will be a wider consult in January/February 2022 and a final consult on 22nd June, after which the local plan will be adopted in June 2023. There are a number of settlements proposed for 3,000 homes to be built in a new village, including Stilingfleet/Escrick, Church Fenton, Burn, Eggborough and Selby urban area. It was confirmed that there was no further development proposed for Skipwith in the foreseeable future. However, JM mentioned that should the Stilingfleet/Escrick development go ahead Skipwith will be adversely affected by a further increase in traffic. MW questioned whether or not the local government reorganisation for North Yorkshire and York and the subsequent cancelled elections in May will have an impact on the consultation period. This was not known.</p>		
749 749.1 749.1.1 749.1.2 749.2 749.3	<p>Financial Matters <u>The following accounts for payment were approved:</u> 749.1.1 NYCC for chicanes - £10,000 only, with the remaining £3,488.85 to be paid on completion of the repairs 749.1.2 Parish Clerk's salary for 6 months MW proposed and SW seconded for the above payments. 749.2 <u>Npower refund for street lighting electricity</u> IG confirmed that Npower had agreed to refund £781.72 due to the installation of LED lights, which had created a cost saving. 749.3 <u>Grass Cutting Tender for 2021/2022</u> It was agreed to rollover the contract with York Landscapes as it had done a good job last year and had helped to enhance the appearance of the village. IG to confirm with contractor.</p>	IG	Asap
750 750.1 750.2	<p>Correspondence <u>District Heating Network</u> A resident had suggested the PC contact Selby Council to ask if it could apply for funding from the Green Homes Grant to implement a district heating network in the village. IG had contacted Selby Council and unfortunately it had informed her that this was not an initiative they were taking forward at this present time. 750.2 <u>North Duffield Bowling Green Request</u> The PC had received a request for a donation due to reduced funds during the pandemic. The PC decided it was unable to provide a donation as it needs to look at the needs of the wider community rather than just the few. IG to respond.</p>	IG	Asap

<p>750.3</p> <p>750.4</p> <p>750.5</p>	<p><u>Census 2021</u> IG had been asked to advertise that the date of the Census was 21st March and to inform residents it was a legal requirement to complete it.</p> <p><u>Remote Meetings</u> IG had been informed that remote meetings can only legally continue until 6th May, at the present time. However, the National Association for Local Councils was planning to lobby Parliament to legislate remote meetings could remain an option for holding meetings in the future. The PC agreed with this. However, as the AGM and next PC meeting is due on 10th May, it was agreed to bring the date forward to Tuesday, 4th May as the current strict guidelines for meeting face to face were deemed too difficult to comply with at this stage of the pandemic. CC proposed and TB seconded.</p> <p><u>Mole Hills</u> The grass cutting contractors had asked for the mole hills to be removed from the grass opposite the village green. As this land is owned by Escrick Estate it was agreed to ask the Estate to remove them. Scarrow Green is also suffering from the same problem so IG agreed to contact Holy Moley to resolve this issue.</p>	<p>IG</p>	<p>Asap</p>
<p>738</p>	<p>Matters for Inclusion on the Agenda for the Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Safety • Water Sewage Pumping Station • Asset Register • Allotments • Non-Compliant Planning Update • Fire Safety (if meeting held in the village hall) 		
	<p>Meeting closed at 9.45pm. Next meeting on the new date of Tuesday, 4th May at the earlier time of 7.00pm, starting with the Annual General Meeting.</p>		